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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Assistance to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) (Phase III)

(Supplementary Preparatory Assistance) (RAF/77/046)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval :	March 1979
Starting date of project activities :	January 1978 (Including previous assistance)
Planned completion date :	December 1979
To be executed by :	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Government implementing agency :	Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Islamic Development Bank (IDEP)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval :	$800 000
Source of UNDP financing :	Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) was set up in 1964 as an autonomous institution under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to provide training for development planning officials and specialists in African countries, conduct research on problem of African development and provide short-term advisory services to African Governments in the field of development planning.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

2. Over the years the training has consisted on one hand of a main course, the duration of which has varied between six and nine months, intended to produce qualified junior and middle-level planners, on the other hand of various short-term courses, seminars and conferences intended for top-level planners and specialists.

3. The main source of finance of IDEP's activities has been UNDP, but UNDP's funds have been supplemented by cash contributions from African Governments. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Sweden and others have contributed to special activities.

4. UNDP's assistance has been given in three phases. Under the first phase project (RAF/65/519, 1964-1970) 1/, UNDP provided $4.6 million, and under the Phase II project (RAF/71/193, 1970-1977) 2/ the UNDP contribution amounted to $8.5 million. These figures do not include Government cash contributions. The Executing Agency for these two UNDP projects was the United Nations.

5. A joint United Nations/UNDP/ECA evaluation mission recommended in 1976 that a Phase III project receiving UNDP assistance be approved. The ECA Conference of Ministers in 1979 expressed the conviction that IDEP should in future years play a more important role in training for development planning in Africa.

6. It is therefore the intention of UNDP to approve a full-scale Phase III project and annually to provide $800,000 to IDEP for each of the years 1978-1982. African Governments are together to contribute $US 1 million annually to IDEP's budget in accordance with a resolution adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers. This Conference will be meeting again from 20 to 28 March 1979. In accordance with the new role given to ECA in the execution of UNDP-financed projects, it was decided that ECA would be Executing Agency for the Phase III project.

7. Before finalization and approbation of the full-scale project, a change in IDEP's statute is to be effected to bring it in full harmony with the United Nations Financial and Staff Regulations. Meanwhile, preparatory assistance covering 1978 was approved. This preparatory assistance has now been extended to cover 1979.

II. Objectives and activities

8. The long-term objective to which this project is intended to contribute is the quantitative and qualitative build-up of a corps of development planners in African countries, able gradually to take over from foreign experts.

9. The immediate objective of the full-scale project will be to enable IDEP to fulfil its intended role of providing post-graduate specialized training in development planning and undertake such other activities - short-term courses, seminars, research, advisory services - as will likewise help African countries in their planning.

1/ SF/R.7/Add.40.
2/ DP/SF/R.11/Add.143.

10. The preparatory assistance and its extension has no specific operational purpose. It is a temporary measure pending finalization of IDEP's statute.

11. Project activities will remain essentially the same as indicated above under paragraphs 1, 2 and 9.

III. Inputs

12. The assistance will be used in its entirety to finance the international staff of IDEP : director, deputy director, lecturers, librarian, interpreters and translators.

IV. Financial data

13. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows :

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	800 000	800 000	1 600 000